

St Gregory the Great Catholic School

ADMISSIONS POLICY 2016/17 – 2018/19

The admissions process is part of the Oxfordshire LA co-ordinated scheme.

The Admission Policy of the School Committee of St Gregory the Great Catholic School is as follows:

The ethos of this school is Catholic. The school was founded by the Catholic Church to provide education for children of Catholic families. The school is conducted by its governing body as part of the Catholic Church in accordance with its Trust Deed and Instrument of Government and seeks at all times to be a witness to Jesus Christ. We ask all parents applying for a place here to respect this ethos and its importance to the school community. This does not affect the right of parents who are not of the faith of this school to apply for and be considered for a place here.

The School's Admission Number for the school year beginning in 2016/17 is 263 or 209

If the number of applications exceeds the admission number, the School Committee will give priority to applications in accordance with the criteria listed, provided that the School Committee are made aware of that application before decisions on admissions are made (see Note 1 below). A map of the parish boundary is available to view at the school and parish or by post on request.

1. Baptised Catholic children (see Note 2 below) who are in the care of a local authority (looked-after children) or provided with accommodation by them (e.g. children with foster parents) (Section 22 of the Children Act 1989) and children who were previously looked after but ceased to be so because they were adopted (or became subject to a residence order or special guardianship order).
2. Baptised Catholic children living within the Parish of St Gregory the Great Catholic School who have a brother or sister (see Note 3 below) in the school at the time of admission
3. Baptised Catholic children living within the Parish of St Gregory the Great Catholic School
4. Other Baptised Catholic children who have a brother or sister in the school at the time of admission
5. Other Baptised Catholic children
6. Non-Catholic children who are in the care of a local authority (looked-after children) or provided with accommodation by them (e.g. children with foster parents) (Section 22 of the Children Act 1989) and children who were previously looked after but ceased to be so because they were adopted (or became subject to a residence order or special guardianship order).
7. Non-Catholic children who have a brother or sister in the school at the time of admission
8. Non-Catholic children

OVER-SUBSCRIPTION

If there is over-subscription within the category, the School Committee will give priority to children living closest to the school determined by the shortest designated public route as defined on the Directorate for Children, Young People & Families Geographic Information System.

Where fewer places can be offered at the school applied for than there are children from multiple births or living at a single address, the governing body will randomly select the child to be offered the final place by drawing lots. As an exception, the governing body will give careful consideration to offering a place above the Admission Number to applications from children whose twin or sibling from a multiple birth is admitted even when there are no other vacant places.

In those cases where the measurement of the distance 'tie break' produces an identical measurement for two or more applicants when there are too few places to offer all those applicants a place, the governing body will randomly select the child to be offered the final place by drawing lots if all the following circumstances apply:

- The measurement of the distance 'tie break' produces an identical result
- The applicants are not twins living at the same address
- There are insufficient places to enable the Local Authority to offer places to all the affected applicants.

Note 1

Children with a Statement of Special Educational Needs that names the school must be admitted. This will reduce the number of places available to other applicants.

Note 2

In all categories, for a child to be considered as a Catholic, evidence of Catholic Baptism or Reception into the Church will be required. For a definition of a Baptised Catholic see the Appendix. Those who face difficulties in producing written evidence of Catholic Baptism/Reception should contact their Parish Priest.

Parents making an application for a Catholic child should also complete the school's supplementary information form (SIF). Failure to complete the SIF/provide evidence of Catholic Baptism/Reception may affect the criterion the child's name is placed in.

Note 3

The definition of a brother or sister is:

- A brother or sister sharing the same parents;
- Half-brother or half-sister, where two children share one common parent;
- Step-brother or step-sister, where two children are related by a parent's marriage;
- Step-brother or step-sister;
- Adopted or fostered children

The children must be living permanently in the same household.

Note 4

The home address of a pupil is considered to be the permanent residence of a child. The address must be the child's only or main residence for the majority of the school week. Documentary evidence may be required.

Where care is split equally between mother and father, parents must name which address is to be used for the purpose of allocating a school place



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SCHOOL ENTRY

Children must, by law, start school by the beginning of the term after their fifth birthday. A parent may defer a child's entry to the school, but not beyond the academic year for which the application is accepted. Parents may discuss this with the Headteacher.

Parents can request that their child attends part-time until the child reaches compulsory school age.

NURSERY

Parents must apply on the LA form for a place in Reception Class. Attendance at a nursery does not automatically guarantee that a place will be offered in main school.

APPEALS

Parents who wish to appeal against the decision of the School Committee to refuse their child a place in the school may apply in writing to the Chair of the School Committee. Appeals will be heard by an independent panel.

REPEAT APPLICATIONS

Any parent can apply for a place for their child at any time outside the admissions round. Parents do not have the right to a second appeal in respect of the same school for the same academic year, unless in exceptional circumstances, the admission authority has accepted a second application from the appellant because of a significant and material change in the circumstances of the parent, child or school but still refused admission.

LATE APPLICATIONS

Late applications will be dealt with according to the LA co-ordinated scheme.

WAITING LISTS

Waiting lists for admission will remain open until the last day of Term 6 each academic year and will then be discarded. Parents may apply for their child's name to be reinstated. The waiting list will be kept by the School Committee in admission criteria order. This means that a child's position on the waiting list could go up or down. Inclusion of a child's name on the waiting list does not mean that a place will eventually become available.

Children who are the subject of a direction by a local authority to admit or who are allocated to a school in accordance with a Fair Access Protocol take precedence over those on a waiting list.

APPLICATIONS OTHER THAN THE NORMAL INTAKE TO RECEPTION CLASS (In-year applications)

As part of the co-ordinated scheme parents/carers are required to complete a CAPF form available on-line www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/admissions or by telephoning the admissions team on 01865 815175. The Local Authority will need to consult with the governors.

There is no charge or cost related to the admission of a child to this school.

APPENDIX

DEFINITION OF A “BAPTISED CATHOLIC”

A “Baptised Catholic” is one who:

- Has been baptised into full communion (Cf. *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 837) with the Catholic Church by the Rites of Baptism of one of the various ritual Churches in communion with the See of Rome (i.e. Latin Rite, Byzantine Rite, Coptic, Syriac, etc, Cf. *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1203). Written evidence* of this baptism can be obtained by recourse to the Baptismal Registers of the church in which the baptism took place (Cf. *Code of Canon Law*, 877 & 878).

Or

- Has been validly baptised in a separated ecclesial community and subsequently received into full communion with the Catholic Church by the *Rite of Reception of Baptised Christians into the Full Communion of the Catholic Church*. Written evidence of their baptism and reception into full communion with the Catholic Church can be obtained by recourse to the Register of Receptions, or in some cases, a sub-section of the Baptismal Registers of the church in which the *Rite of Reception* took place (Cf. *Rite of Christian Initiation*, 399).

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF BAPTISM

The Governing bodies of Catholic schools will require written evidence in the form of a Certificate of Baptism or Certificate of Reception before applications for school places can be considered for categories of “Baptised Catholics”. A Certificate of Baptism or Reception is to include: the full name, date of birth, date of baptism or reception, and parent(s) name(s). The certificate must also show that it is copied from the records kept by the place of baptism or reception.

Those who would have difficulty obtaining written evidence of Catholic Baptism/Reception for a good reason, may still be considered as baptised Catholics but only after they have been referred to their parish priest who, after consulting the Vicar General, will decide how the question of Baptism/Reception is to be resolved and how written evidence is to be produced in accordance with the law of the Church.

Those who would be considered to have good reason for not obtaining written evidence would include those who cannot contact the place of Baptism/Reception due to persecution or fear, the destruction of the church and the original records, or where Baptism/Reception was administered validly but not in the Parish church where records are kept.

School Committee may request extra supporting evidence when the written documents that are produced do not clarify the fact that a person was baptised or received into the Catholic Church, (i.e. where the name and address of the Church is not on the certificate or where the name of the Church does not state whether it is a Catholic Church or not.)